

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ARA-16 NEA-10 RSR-01 /156 W

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P R 150308Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9061

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

1. AT ITS FIRST MEETING OF YEAR AFTERNOON AUG 14, UN SPECIAL COMITE OF 24'S WORKING GROUP, AFTER RELATIVELY BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PR ITEM, AGREED BY CONSENSUS TO REFER ENTIRE QUESTION BACK TO COMITE PLENARY FOR DECISION ON HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

2. AUSTRALIAN DEL ON COMITE OF 24 (DEPUTY PERMREP CAMPBELL, WHO HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY COOPERATIVE WITH USUN ON ALL COMITE 24 MATTERS) SUPPLIED MISOFF WITH FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON WG DEBATE. AUSTRALIA AND IRAN, FIRST SPEAKERS, ARGUED THAT WG SHOULD RECOMMEND TO PLENARY THAT CONSIDERATION OF "COMPLEX PR QUESTION" BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT YEAR. BULGARIA, CONGO, IRAQ AND TANZANIA TOOK OPPOSITE TACK BY URGING WG TO RECOMMEND THAT PLENARY EXAMINE PR QUESTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CONGO AND IRAQ ALSO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF COMITE'S GRANTING HEARING TO PR INDEPENDENCE LEADERS IN ORDER TO "GAIN FULLER UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUE".

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VENEZUELA PRESENT BUT DID NOT SPEAK. ETHIOPIA AND TRINIDAD/

TOBAGO DID NOT ATTEND. COMITE CHAIRMAN SALIM PROPOSED THAT IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITHIN WG, ENTIRE QUESTION BE REFERRED BACK TO PLENARY AND HIS SUGGESTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS.

3. MEETING OF COMITE OF 24 PLENARY DEVOTED TO PUERTO RICO NOW SCHEDULED FOR AUG 16.

4. USUN, WITH CONSIDERABLE HELP FROM AUSTRALIANS, IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH SUCH FRIENDLY DELS ON COMITE AS ETHIOPIA, FIJI, IVORY COAST, INDONESIA AND SWEDEN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE BELIEVE NOTHING CAN BE GAINED BY OUR LOBBYING HERE WITH BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR USSR SINCE THEIR DELS AT UN VERY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH OUR CONCERNS. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT DEPT MAKE CLEAR TO THESE THREE NATIONS THAT THEIR ACTIVE INTERVENTION IN ISSUE THAT WE REGARD AS STRICTLY DOMESTIC MATTER CAN HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS MAY NOT CHANGE WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF USSR AND ITS FRIENDS, FACT OF OUR MAKING THEM WILL HELP TO REASSURE PR GOVT OF OUR ACTIVE DEFENSE OF ITS INTERESTS IN UN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, DEPENDENCY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN02877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SCALI
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730835/aaaaazol.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005